

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-19 remain in the application and are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5, 7, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nickum (U.S. Patent No. 6,359,661); claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nickum in further view of Croy (U.S. Patent No. 6,476,825); and claims 3, 12, 14, 18, 19 and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nickum in further view of Humpleman (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,971). Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Claim 1, for example, calls for:

transmitting, from the given one of the plurality of control devices to the information processing apparatus over the network, an identification number corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of controlled hardware portions and identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices;

storing, in a control correspondence table of the information processing apparatus, the identification number corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of controlled hardware portions and the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices that were transmitted by the given one of the plurality of control devices such that the identification number corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of controlled hardware portions is associated with the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices;

repeating said selecting step, said transmitting step and said storing step using a further one of the plurality of control devices and a further one of the plurality of controlled hardware portions to associate the identification information corresponding to the further one of the plurality of control devices with

the identification number corresponding to the further one of the plurality of controlled hardware portions;

transmitting a control request from the given one of the plurality of control devices or from the further one of the plurality of control devices to the information processing apparatus over the network, the control request including the identification information corresponding to the transmitting control device;

referring to the control correspondence table to obtain the identification number corresponding to the controlled hardware portion of the information processing apparatus that is associated with the identification information corresponding to the transmitting control device[.] (Emphasis added.)

The sections of Nickum relied on by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest an identification number corresponding to a selected one of a plurality of controlled hardware portions, do not disclose or suggest identification information corresponding to a given one of a plurality of control devices, do not disclose or suggest an identification number corresponding to a further one of a plurality of controlled hardware portions, do not disclose or suggest identification information corresponding to a further one of a plurality of control devices, and do not disclose or suggest control correspondence table.

The cited sections of Nickum describe a remote control device that is assigned and stores one or more user ID's. (See col.4 1.66 - col.5 1.3, col.5 11.10-21, and col.7 11.6-10.) Each assigned ID corresponds to a particular user, rather than to a particular remote control device, because each user ID may be stored in more than one remote control device and each remote control device may store more than one user ID. Hence, there is no correspondence between a given user ID and a given remote control device. In fact, even when a user ID is stored in only one remote control device and that device does not store any other user ID's, the user ID and the remote control device coincide rather than correspond to each other because the

assigned ID is associated with a user and not with the remote control device. The cited sections of Nickum therefore do not disclose or suggest identification information corresponding to a given one of a plurality of control devices, and do not disclose or suggest identification information corresponding to a further one of a plurality of control devices.

Moreover, the cited sections of Nickum describe a user profile that corresponds to a particular user ID and that includes programming restrictions. (See col.7 ll.33.) Because every such programming restriction would control the same hardware portion of the receiver, all of the user profiles define control of the same hardware portion. Therefore, the relied-on sections of Nickum do not disclose or suggest an identification number corresponding to a selected one of a plurality of controlled hardware portions, and the relied-on sections of Nickum do not disclose or suggest an identification number corresponding to a further one of a plurality of controlled hardware portions.

Additionally, the relied-on sections of Nickum describe circuitry that stores the user profile and describe circuitry that translates a received identifying signal to reference the proper user profile. However, there is no indication therein that the user profile and the translated identifying signal are stored in a control correspondence table. The cited sections of Nickum therefore do not disclose or suggest a control correspondence table.

It follows that the relied-on sections of Nickum do not disclose or suggest the method defined in claim 1 and therefore do not anticipate the claim.

Independent claims 10 and 11 each include limitations similar to those set out above regarding claim 1. Therefore, claims 10 and 11 are each distinguishable over Nickum for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2-9 and 12 depend from claim 1, claims 13-18 depend from claim 10, and claim 19 depends from claim 11. Therefore, each of these claims is distinguishable over Nickum for at least the same reasons as the claim from which it depends. The relied on sections of Croy and Humpleman do not remedy the deficiencies of Nickum.

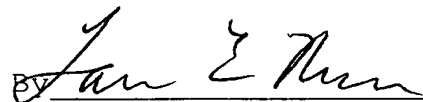
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under §§ 102(e) and 103(a).

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,



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